

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SCOTT ROSCOE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Scott Roscoe with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scott is a member of Egg Harbor Township Troop 94. For his Eagle Scout Project, he installed a wall-mounted shelving system in the offices of the Great Egg Harbor Township Historical Society. For this project, Scott arranged the material donations and volunteers, communicated with the historical society, and arranged meetings with groups and individuals to ensure the completion of the project. He also volunteered around 110 service hours at the ALS Walk, Food Bank, Salvation Army, Patcong Creek, Beach Cleanup, and more. Scott, along with his brother Jack, also helped organize and sell flood-relief buckets to aid Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments, and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize him for his service to both the Historical Society and the entire South Jersey community. God Bless Scott and God Bless America.

LEXI MISSIMO

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas 24 Hometown Hero of the week, Lexi Missimo, a Southlake native representing the United States Women's National youth team.

Last season while playing for the University of Texas, Lexi showed courage in the face of public pressure by standing proudly for our country's national anthem. While many chose to bend the knee, Lexi stood with pride to honor the country she loves, and her beloved late grandfather who selflessly served in the military.

We live in strange times—it is now more acceptable to kneel for our flag than to stand. Lexi displayed bravery by refusing to cower to public pressure, not for any political purpose, but simply out of love for country.

Lexi is an all-American kid—one who is proud of the country she calls home and those who serve to protect it. I look forward to seeing her represent our country this summer with the Under 20's national team, and one day, fulfill her dream to play for the senior team.

I thank Lexi for her courageous actions. May they inspire the rest of the country to show pride in our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 1ST MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE IN PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I would like to give special recognition to the Organized Reserve in Puerto Rico known as the 1st Mission Support Command.

In June 1922, the Organized Reserve in Puerto Rico was authorized when the Headquarters of the 187th Infantry Brigade and the 373rd Infantry Regiment were allotted from the National Army. This force, transformed by the needs of the nation continues to serve today as the 1st Mission Support Command. As we approach the 100th anniversary of its organization it is befitting to pause to commemorate and recognize the contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to vital national security interests and homeland defense.

Answering the nation's call when liberty is at risk is a responsibility that the citizen soldiers from the newly Organized Reserve in Puerto Rico readily assumed. From July 14, 1939 to July 7, 1945, 119 enlisted and 513 officers from the Organized Reserve in Puerto Rico served in World War II. During the decade of the 1940s the Organized Reserve in Puerto Rico were designated the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico. Subsequent military priorities adapted, expanded, and amended the organization of the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico to include additional military occupational specialties, capabilities and responsibility for units in the Virgin Islands. Its current denomination as 1st Mission Support Command was authorized on October 19, 2007.

These changes enabled the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico to activate and deploy from September 1990 through October 1991, more than 1,000 Soldiers in support of the Persian Gulf War. After the events of September 11, 2001, the 1st Mission Support Command deployed more than 5,000 soldiers to provide indispensable and sustained support for operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, and other throughout the world, with 95 percent of units having deployed or provided mobilized soldiers, in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The commitment of the members of the 1st Mission Support Command and their success wherever they deploy is a demonstration of their quality and devotion to duty. But behind each of them are the family members who support them with their love and who endure the long periods of separation spent in training and deployments. This 100th anniversary is also a celebration of their stoic support.

Confronting overseas threats is where the 1st Mission Support Command has earned its reputation as a professional and capable

force. But probably the greatest threat confronted by the command was not in a remote battlefield, but in its own backyard. The battering winds of Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017 impacted Puerto Rico with such a force that within a few hours transformed our beloved Island into a disaster zone. The severity of the Island-wide disaster required designating the 1st Mission Support Command as the U.S. Army Reserve Caribbean Geographical Command, which added key new capabilities to its formation and placing thousands of additional soldiers, under one chain of command. It is evidence of the quality of leadership and soldiers who are part of the 1st Mission Support Command that even when faced with the emergency imposed by the disaster, they gallantly helped their communities while effectively continuing to support their military commitments overseas.

As the 1st Mission Support Command in Puerto Rico stands in the threshold of a new century, we are confident that the strong roots developed during the last 100 years have prepared the men and woman of this command to respond to the challenges that war, or nature could bring in the future. Is in this context that I request that this body joins with me to recognize and commend the 1st Mission Command for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States of America.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge support for my amendment to bolster the research capacity of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

I'm a third generation HBCU graduate. HBCUs were created to provide a safe place of learning for Black Americans. Just this week, that most basic tenet has been threatened by racist bomb threats.

On Tuesday, I called on the Department of Education to lead a whole-of-government response to these threats. We owe HBCU students and faculty safety, but we also owe them so much more.

I'm here today to ensure Congress delivers for our HBCUs the same way they delivered for me and so many other graduates. My amendment will bolster the research capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in two ways.

First, it will ensure that research grants from the National Science Foundation can be used for the professional development and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

mentorship of student and faculty researchers at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs. Second, it will make sure federal agencies provide technical assistance to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs on how to grow their capacity to manage grants from application to completion.

As the representative of the congressional district with the greatest number of HBCUs, I know investing in HBCUs supports Black excellence. My amendment will support critical educational institutions and their students, advance innovation, and grow our economy. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on amendment number 150 sponsored by Representative MIKE LEVIN.

This amendment is modeled off the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA) which promotes wind, solar, and geothermal resources on public lands.

You might ask me why I am speaking on a Democrat amendment, or why I seem to know so much about this amendment.

It's strange because this amendment looks familiar to me. I wonder why that is?

Oh that's right, that's because PLREDA is my bill, one which I have sponsored since the 112th Congress.

When I introduced PLREDA in the previous Congresses, I solicited original cosponsors in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. LEVIN was one such original cosponsor.

After the 2020 election, we used Mr. LEVIN as the lead, yet with this current legislation I was prohibited from being part of its annual original sponsors.

But that's fine, I am more interested in passing good governance for the American people than demanding the credit.

I have done this in the past when we reformed the antitrust exemptions in the McCarran-Ferguson Act for the medical insurance industry and brought knowledge to the erroneous administrative exclusion in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act jeopardizing constituents in Mohave County, Arizona and Clark County, Nevada.

If this were a stand-alone provision, it would earn my support because we need to pass the remainder of PLREDA, the rest which I was unable to get passed in previous Congresses.

However, used as an amendment to a very disingenuous bill, I cannot support it. Not because of the theft of my bill but the poor process used today in this bad bill.

I've always said good process builds good policy which makes good politics.

The amendments being considered inside en bloc packages is a tactic of the current majority which would make the founders roll in their graves.

This is not a counter China bill. This bill promotes a role for the government in the economy which is un-American and deals more in abstract social and climate policies than anything else.

It is not good process. Everyone on the other side has not read the full bill, just like

they have not taken the time to make themselves fully aware of anything they have passed so far, regardless if it's a bill, amendment, or resolution.

The American people should be concerned about how this bill actually makes us weaker in the face of China, and no matter how many of my good policy ideas you add to it in the form of an amendment, you cannot change its rotten core.

CASEL'S MARKETPLACE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of visiting Casel's Marketplace, a family-owned market in Margate, South Jersey. Since opening its doors as a small grocery store in Atlantic City in 1929, Casel's has brought the finest quality ingredients to the South Jersey community. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Sieden family owning Casel's Marketplace. Throughout the years, Casel's has continued to turn new visitors into life-long customers. They are known for their signature meats, smoked fish department, grab-and-go salads, extensive cheese selection, and fresh produce section. Casel's Marketplace is always doing everything necessary to give their customers' the best shopping experience. God Bless the Sieden Family and Casel's Marketplace and God Bless America.

HONORING ANNE BACON AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Anne Bacon, Chief Executive Officer of IMPACT Community Action Partnership.

Anne Bacon and her team at IMPACT have been essential in helping Iowans keep a roof over their heads throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting Iowans in need. So much of what we do here in Congress relies on the work of public servants and communities to implement, and their work has been especially critical over the last two years. IMPACT has been serving Iowans for years, but they took on new challenges during the pandemic.

Recognizing the importance of keeping Iowans housed during the pandemic, IMPACT helped more than 1,000 families with direct housing assistance during 2020, using funding from the CARES Act. This year, working with Polk County and Des Moines, Anne's team has kept more than 6,500 households from facing eviction and homelessness, committing more than \$35 million from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program Congress passed in the last year. That includes families with nearly 7,000 children who were able to keep the homes they knew thanks to the efforts of Anne and IMPACT. Their work also received

praise from the Treasury Department as a high-performing program for making their program easy to use and working directly to help renters facing eviction.

Anne grew up in Toledo, Iowa, and after living in California for four years moved back to Iowa to commit her life to making sure that our social safety net would work for people going through tough times. That goal—making sure people could access services and leave feeling better than when they started—has driven her in getting her degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa and a Masters in Public Administration from Drake University, and continues to drive her work to reduce the barriers that people in poverty face. Anne's work at IMPACT includes both direct service to Iowans and looking at the systemic issues that create this kind of need in the US, and focuses on making sure that programs to help people need to recognize that the people they're helping are their most important stakeholders.

Anne now lives in Ankeny and is happily married with three adult children and one grandson.

Anne's dedication to helping others sets an example all of us can look to, and the work of Iowans like her is critical to making sure the work we do here in Congress reaches our constituents. My work on the Financial Services Committee to secure rental assistance to help Iowans recover from the impacts of the pandemic relies on dedicated public servants like Anne. I'm forever grateful for her work during this difficult time, and I will continue to work in Congress, as I did at the State of Iowa, to make sure that government truly works for the people. It is my privilege to recognize Anne Bacon as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to condemn the violence inflicted upon Armenians on the 34th anniversary of the Sumgait Pogroms in Azerbaijan. I believe that condemning these actions today will help prevent renewed aggression against citizens of Armenian descent who continue to live in Azerbaijan, while bringing attention to efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Further, I reaffirm our nation's commitment to an enduring, peaceful, and democratic resolution of the Artsakh conflict.

From 1988 to 1990, the Armenian population in Soviet Azerbaijan was the target of ethnically targeted pogroms in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. Beginning on February 27, 1988 in Sumgait, Armenian Christians were indiscriminately murdered, raped, and maimed by mobs of criminals and thugs. According to independent reporting, police in Baku allowed the pogroms to continue for 3 days, during which time Armenians were burned alive and thrown from windows.

Despite vocal U.S. and international protests over the Sumgait Pogroms, renewed anti-Armenian pogroms were launched in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 that lasted for seven days. Fourteen months later in the capital,

Baku, another pogrom was launched against its Armenian minority. These vicious attacks killed hundreds of unarmed civilians and displaced tens of thousands of Armenians fleeing systematic violence as refugees.

These pogroms set the stage for decades of aggression by Azerbaijan. In September 2020, Azerbaijan bombed the Republic of Artsakh with Turkish support, targeting Armenian schools and religious sites, and killing innocent civilians. Over a year later, Azerbaijan still illegally holds and tortures Armenian prisoners of war (POWs) from 2020, despite signing a joint statement requiring all captives to be released.

Madam Speaker, on this 34th anniversary of the Sumgait Pogroms, I want to emphasize the importance of remembering these crimes against humanity. I call on the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge that these atrocities occurred, and that it seeks justice for the victims by prosecuting those who committed these horrific acts of violence. I also call upon the government of Azerbaijan to take all appropriate action to prevent further tragedies of this nature, and to respect the rights of all minorities living within its borders. I condemn Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia, and call on the Azerbaijani government to immediately and unconditionally release all Armenian POWs and captive civilians.

RECOGNIZING FRANCIS
MALDONADO-VÁZQUEZ

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Francis Maldonado-Vázquez for his tremendous efforts in achieving the Eagle Scout rank, the most prestigious award of the Boy Scouts of America.

Throughout his trail to Eagle, Francis has demonstrated he abides by the Scout Oath and Law and exemplifies the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship the Boy Scouts of America strives to teach. As a member of Troop 377 Francis enjoys visiting Camp Guajataka, camping, and learning of the outdoors.

Francis' love for animals and insects was exemplified by the impressive community service project he led in lake La Plata in Toa Baja. Francis and his team renovated the pollination garden at the wildlife refuge by installing several beehive boxes, and signs showcasing educational material about pollinator species most common in the area.

Francis is part of the special needs program of the Boy Scouts of America, and his story is an extraordinary example for youth with special needs around the Nation.

I'm honored to celebrate Francis' great accomplishment, recognizing the outstanding efforts of his work.

MATTHEW OSTERGAARD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the

Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Matthew Ostergaard, Major, United States Army, of Lewisville, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Ostergaard enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1992, eventually becoming a commissioned officer in the infantry, retiring in 2017. During his years in the Army, he served in Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia and in Operation New Dawn in Iraq. His decorations include the Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars to denote serving in different phases of the Iraq War, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of second award, the Army Commendation Medal with one silver and two bronze Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of 7 subsequent awards, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters to denote 3 subsequent awards, the Army Good Conduct Medal with bronze clasps to denote 3 subsequent awards, as well as the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

After retiring from the Army, Mr. Ostergaard has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He is active within his church, serving in its hospitality ministry, as an assistant leader with the local Cub Scout pack, and volunteers with several veteran organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Mr. Ostergaard's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

ROSALIE GRENON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Rosalie Grenon of Sutton, Massachusetts, a loving mother, grandmother, and friend to many.

Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, Rosalie spent her entire life in Central Massachusetts, growing up and raising her family in Millbury and Sutton, respectively. She married her high school sweetheart, David Grenon, and they built a beautiful family and life together. Driven by their belief in the importance of education, Rosalie and David have a long history of supporting the business studies program at Assumption University in Worcester, MA.

Rosalie was actively involved in her community, and a true patron of the arts. She served on the Advisory Board of the Joy of Music in Worcester, the Scholarship Committee for the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and the Advisory Board for the Performing Arts School of Worcester.

A graduate of Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, Rosalie received a degree in music from the college in 1960. She was a talented opera singer and had a particular adoration for classical music. A skilled artist, she found joy in photography, painting, and drawing. She often used her talents to

contribute to her church and events in our community.

Rosalie loved the many roles she held in her life, but she cherished being a grandmother and great-grandmother the most. She had magical connections with the children in her life, and she often spent her time playing with them and rocking them to sleep with ease.

Rosalie was a vibrant woman who put an abundance of love out into the world. She will be remembered for her artistic eye, her dedication to her family, and her love of Barry Manilow's music. Her kindness and passion extended beyond herself and touched the people who loved her in unforgettable ways.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and Rosalie's loved ones, it is my great privilege and honor to celebrate and recognize the beautiful life of the late Rosalie Grenon.

JACK ROSCOE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Jack Roscoe with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Jack has been a scout for eight years and is a member of Egg Harbor Township Scout Troop 94. For his Eagle Scout project, he built three garden beds for the Greater Egg Harbor Township Historical Society. The garden beds will be used for families who cannot afford to have their own gardens but wish to grow their own vegetables. In addition to this project, he has also volunteered 120 hours of community service, including the ALS walk, Salvation Army, and Dog Park and Beach Clean Up. Jack, with the help of his brother Scott, helped organize and sell flood-relief buckets to aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Jack should be proud of his accomplishments and I look forward to seeing him succeed in his future endeavors. God Bless Jack and God Bless America.

ALEXANDER SAGCAL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Alexander Sagcal, Lieutenant Junior Grade, United States Navy, of Carrollton, Texas for his honorable service he performed in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Sagcal was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy in 1986, serving until 1990. During his years in the Navy, he served aboard the USS *Sumter* as a main propulsion assistant officer, an auxiliary officer, an electronic material officer, and the ship's assistant 1st Lieutenant.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Sagcal has brought the same love he had for his country

and poured it into making his community a better place. Mr. Sagcal currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce; Member of the Board of Directors, Coppell Chamber of Commerce; Ambassador- Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors—CFBISD Educational Foundation; Vice-President Historic Downtown Carrollton Association; and is active with the St. Mary Immaculate Church.

Mr. Sagcal's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, due to a transportation issue, I was unable to cast a vote on February 2, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted against Roll Call No. 17, H. Res. 900.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday I attended the funeral of former Congressman Clarence J. "Bud" Brown, Jr., in Ohio. As a result, I was absent from the House floor during that day's two roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call No. 16, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 900, and no on Roll Call No. 17, agreeing to H. Res. 900.

RECOGNIZING DIEGO JOSÉ BAQUERO-MORALES

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Diego José Baquero-Morales for his great efforts in achieving the Eagle Scout rank, the most prestigious award in the Boy Scouts of America.

Through his trail to Eagle, Diego José has demonstrated he abides by the Scout Oath and Law and exemplifies the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship the Boy Scouts of America strives to teach. As a member of Troop 134 Diego enjoys visiting El Yunque, Camp Guajataka, fishing and kayaking among other outdoor activities. Diego's Troop distinguishes itself for serving youth with special needs, and its influence has empowered Diego to become an exemplary young man.

Diego's community service project consisted in restructuring several rooms in the Mercedes Morales school to meet the necessities of special needs students like him. The remodeling enabled the students to have new and im-

proved areas to study and receive their therapy sessions. Diego's great achievement attests to his remarkable commitment, leadership skills, and faithfulness to our country.

I'm honored to celebrate Diego's great accomplishment, recognizing the outstanding efforts of his work.

SCOTT ROPIECKI

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Jeffrey "Scott" Ropiecki with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scott began as a Tiger Scout when he was just six years old and has been a lifelong scout ever since. He graduated from Atlantic Cape Community College with an associate degree in applied science. He also earned his Federal Aviation Remote Pilot Certificate with a Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rating. Scott currently attends Rutgers University where he is majoring in Bio-Chemistry and competed as the only Freshman on the Ranger Challenge Team. For his Eagle Scout project, he revived the Chestnut Neck Road Conservation Trail. Scott cleared the vegetation and trash from the trail and added markers at critical points along the route. He also made a trailhead to signify the trail's starting point using split railings. Scott should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Scott and God Bless America.

EDWARD L. PETERS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Edward L. Peters, Petty Officer 1st Class, United States Navy, of Grapevine, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Peters enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1972, serving in waters in the Middle East, the Northern Atlantic, the Caribbean, and two deployments to Guantanamo Bay. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Peters brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees. Among these are the Board of Directors, Tulip Track Council I of the Girl Scouts of the USA, the Board of Directors for the Grapevine Shield Foundation which fundraises for fallen and injured first responders, an active volunteer for the Grapevine Police Department with over 5,500 hours volunteered since 2010, and an active volun-

teer for the Lions Club, Kiwanis, the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce, the Grapevine Masonic Lodge, and the Grapevine Elks Lodge.

Mr. Peters' service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF COACH KIRBY PAUL SMART

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and extend personal congratulations to the University of Georgia's (UGA) Football Head Coach, Coach Kirby P. Smart. Coach Smart recently led the UGA Bulldogs to their 2022 College Football Playoffs National Championship win on Monday, January 11, 2022.

Kirby was born on December 23, 1975, to the union of Sonny and Sharon Smart. He was educated in the Decatur County School System, and he began his playing career at Bainbridge High School under the tutelage of his father. During his high school career, he was a three-year letterman in football, basketball, and baseball and a first-team Class AAAA All-State as a senior. Upon his graduation from Bainbridge High, he enrolled at and played for the University of Georgia, where he was a four-year letterman at defensive back and a first-team All-SEC (Southeastern Conference) selection as a senior. He finished his college football career as a four-time member of SEC Academic Honor Roll, with 13 interceptions, ranking fourth-all time at UGA, and led the Bulldogs with six interceptions in 1997 and five in 1998 before graduating in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Finance. Kirby later obtained his master's degree in Physical Education from Florida State University in 2003.

Kirby began his impressive coaching career in 1999 as the Administrative Assistant Coach for UGA. Since then, he has served as the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2000) and Defense Coordinator (2001) at Valdosta State University, a Graduate Assistant (2002 through 2003) at Florida State University, the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2004) at Louisiana State University, the Assistant Coach for Running Backs (2005) at UGA, and the Assistant Coach for Safeties (2006) with the Miami Dolphins. He also served as the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2007), Defensive Coordinator for Inside Linebackers (2008 through 2013 and 2015), and Defensive Coordinator for Inside Linebackers (2014) at the University of Alabama, before coming back to UGA to serve as the Football Head Coach (2016). Since returning to UGA, Kirby and the Bulldogs have amassed championship titles at several levels including four in the SEC Eastern Division, one in the SEC, and one at the national level.

Coach Smart has received countless awards and commendations for his achievements and accomplishments as a coach including the Broyles Award (2009), American Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year (2012), SEC Coach of the Year

(2017, 2021), and most recently, a bipartisan and bicameral resolution on January 11, 2022, endorsed by the entire Georgia Congressional Delegation honoring the UGA Bulldogs' recent 2022 College Football Playoffs National Championship win.

Coach Smart has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God; the love and support of his wife, Mary; and their children; Weston, Julia, and Andrew.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District and the Georgia Bulldog Nation, in extending our thanks, our heartfelt congratulations, and our best wishes to Coach Kirby P. Smart for his monumental achievement in leading the UGA Bulldogs to their 2022 College Football Playoffs National Championship win.

DENOUNCING RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR MONGERING

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the drumbeat for war in Eastern Europe we have been listening to for weeks now.

For over two weeks the American people have watched with intense concern and uneasiness the heightened tensions between Ukraine and Russia.

It is not so much the border issues between these nations that concerns Americans, but the loose talk of the Biden Administration to involve the United States in a hot war against Russia.

Americans do not dread that territorial disputes are taking place over 6,000 miles away. They dread that the Biden administration may involve them in another costly, stupid war, one with potentially devastating results for their families.

The foreign policy issues of Eastern Europe are complex, but the law is not. The Constitution of the United States, written plain as day in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11, gives Congress the sole power to declare war.

No one else.

Not the president, not the lifelong bureaucrats in the State Department, or the diversity-trained generals in the Pentagon, and especially not the quote-unquote "experts" educated beyond their capacity.

Only the people's elected representatives.

I have served in this body for over a decade, and it's clear to me that Congress has no interest in picking up its constitutional prerogative or making itself accountable to the voters.

In their absence, I believe the need for action must devolve to the states. Federalism requires as much.

In Arizona, State Senator Wendy Rogers has introduced a bill called the Defend the Guard Act. It stipulates that unless Congress has formally declared war, Arizona National Guardsmen are prohibited from being deployed into active combat overseas.

Rogers is a retired Lieutenant Colonel who served for twenty years in the U.S. Air Force.

And I think she speaks for a lot of soldiers who are tired of being sent into undeclared, no-win wars that go on for decades.

One of America's finest soldiers, two-time Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Corps Major General Smedley Butler, said of our troops, "We Americans who will protect our flag should have a voice in where it is flown."

I agree.

The United States of America has the greatest, bravest fighting force in the history of the world.

And if Congress has one ounce of respect for their courage and sacrifice, and the founding document they swore an oath to defend with their lives, we would vote before ever sending them into battle.

Our names should be on the dotted line before their boots ever hit the ground, whether in Ukraine or anywhere else in the world.

And until Congress declares war as required by the Constitution, not a single Guardsman from Arizona or any other state should be deployed into combat.

I believe Arizona ought to be the first state to pass the Defend the Guard Act and lead the way in protecting our sons and daughters in uniform from federal abuse and challenge this Congress to start following every part of the U.S. Constitution.

If history has taught us anything it is this: we have lost trillions of dollars and tens of thousands of American lives fighting ridiculous wars in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We have the best military force in the world and some of the most inept military leaders. And to be fair, the political rules imposed on our military leaders, the so called Rules of Engagement, deprive our military of a clear path to victory. Indeed, the political aspects of those wars, to "build nations" or to win hearts, is as inane as it was unsuccessful. War is to destroy the enemy, not build nations.

Historical failures of Western countries confronting Russia militarily in Eastern Europe in the winter taught us the foolhardiness of such an effort. We cannot make the same mistake, in a conflict which we have no justification to be in to begin with.

Most critically, the United States has no interest to protect there. Certainly no interest strong enough to risk war with Russia.

I denounce the war mongering.

CHIEF WILLIAM PRIOLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the honor of presenting a flag to Chief of Police William Priole at his retirement event. Chief Priole's law enforcement career began with his attendance at the 52nd session of Atlantic County Police Academy. He served as a patrol officer until his promotion to Corporal in 2006. In 2007, Chief Priole earned the coveted David C. Douglass Officer of the Year award for his outstanding performance in the Patrol Division. He was then promoted to Sergeant in 2011, Lieutenant in 2015, Captain in 2019, and Chief of Police in 2021. For over 30 years, he has protected and served the citizens of Lower Township. Chief Priole should be proud of his accomplishments and it was

my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Chief Priole and God Bless America.

KENT HOPKINS

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Kent Hopkins, Petty Officer 3rd Class, United States Navy, of Euless, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Hopkins enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1960, having served until 1964 as an aircrewman with VF-9, serving on the P-3 Orion maritime surveillance aircraft. Notable assignments include serving as a part of Joint Task Force 8 during Operation Dominic nuclear testing in the Johnston Atoll in 1962. Other assignments include maritime surveillance of Soviet military assets in the Far East during the height of the Cold War.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Hopkins has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees. Among these are as a member of Lions Club, Optimists Club, a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America, a former governor of the DFW Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Mr. Hopkins has also served as a precinct chairman and election judge, as well as a volunteer for several local-area churches.

Mr. Hopkins' career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

**CONGRESS MUST IMMEDIATELY
REVERSE AMORTIZATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
("R&D") EXPENSES**

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to address an urgent tax policy matter.

At the start of this year, a key bipartisan tax policy ended. It had been around for nearly 70 years. For nearly 7 decades American taxpayers had been able to immediately deduct R&D expenses.

What has changed since the beginning of 2022, Madam Speaker? Taxpayers are now required to deduct R&D expenses over a period of years. This spread-out deduction is what is known as amortization.

What does it mean, Madam Speaker? Expenses would be recovered more slowly. To those innovative businesses cash flow will be reduced. Reduced cash flow means less dollars for R&D. Smaller R&D budgets will harm

R&D activity in the United States. That's the effect of increasing the tax burden borne by those innovating businesses.

Will there be a loss of jobs, Madam Speaker? The answer is yes. One study concludes the job losses would total over 20,000 jobs in the first five years. As bad as that is, the same study concludes job losses would be three times as much in the second five years. We're talking about 60,000 jobs lost.

How will this change affect U.S. global competitiveness, Madam Speaker? The answer is it will hurt U.S. competitiveness abroad. If allowed to remain in effect, the U.S. policy of amortization would treat innovation-related expenses worse than any other developed country. Prior to amortization going into effect, the U.S. was already ranked 27th of 37 OECD countries with respect to R&D incentives. If amortization remains, things get worse. In effect, the U.S. will fall further behind our competitors when it comes to incentivizing R&D.

If Congress fails to delay amortization before March 31st, the first quarter of 2022, businesses will be forced to act. Estimated cash tax payments will increase by more than \$8 billion in just the first quarter alone. The effect will be an immediate reduction in capital that can support R&D. Of prime concern to Congress should be the loss of more than 20,000 direct R&D jobs this year without our action.

A four-year delay of amortization is included in the House-passed Build Back Better legislation and the initial Senate substitute. I would have hoped we would already have addressed this issue, but while progress on that legislation awaits final disposition in the Senate, Congress must begin to consider whatever is the fastest path to enactment because time is of the essence.

One option would be the two pieces of legislation designed to address China competition. The House is considering the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Stability ("America COMPETES") Act of 2022. Our Senate colleagues have passed their own version of China competition legislation. Speaker PELOSI has said she plans to reach a bipartisan agreement to bring these two bills together.

Madam Speaker, what does restoring deductibility of R&D have to do with the China competition bills? The short answer is plenty. In terms of competitiveness, China and America are moving in different directions on tax incentives for R&D. The Chinese have enacted a super deduction for R&D expenses. For manufacturing companies in China, that deduction yields an extra 100 percent of eligible R&D expenses. This deduction is in addition to actual R&D expenses incurred. That's why they call it a super deduction.

Let's discuss an example. A manufacturing company that undertakes \$100 of R&D in China would deduct \$200. By contrast, a company that undertakes \$100 of R&D in the United States would deduct only \$10 in 2022. R&D conducted in China would thus receive 20 times the tax benefit of R&D conducted in the U.S. When all R&D incentives are considered, China would have incentives more than 11 times as generous as those of the United States. Eleven times as generous, Madam Speaker. How are American companies going to win the race with Chinese companies who have that kind of head start?

We should look at including the four-year delay of amortization of R&D in the final Amer-

ica COMPETES legislation. Inclusion becomes more important if it appears to be moving more quickly than the Build Back Better legislation.

Madam Speaker, there is another legislative vehicle Congress should consider for this urgent matter. Congress is in the process of addressing defense and non-defense appropriations spending because the continuing resolution expires on February 18, 2022. Congressional negotiators should be aware that a reversal of the decades-old R&D tax incentives brings adverse national security consequences.

Where's the linkage to national security? Look no further than the National Science and Technology Council. They concluded that "ensuring national security and resilience is critical for the United States, especially as other nations dramatically increase their R&D expenditures" and sustained R&D investments "are essential to ensure that the United States remains able to secure and protect the American people in the face of this increased competition." Ignoring R&D amortization would have implications for our national security interests and should be resolved by the time these issues are settled.

Madam Speaker, strong tax incentives for R&D have long had bipartisan support. The initial R&D credit was passed by a Democratic House. Republican Senate, and signed by President Reagan. Last year a bipartisan group of 96 House members and 26 Senators introduced legislation permanently reversing amortization of R&D expenditures. With amortization of R&D now in effect, the bipartisan goal of restoring this bipartisan tax incentive becomes even more compelling.

Congress must act immediately, certainly before the end of this quarter, to maintain the immediate deductibility of R&D expenditures. As each month passes, failure to act yields proportionately more harm to US innovation and competitiveness. All available legislative vehicles should be considered.

Madam Speaker, America's innovators cannot wait further.

ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS OF ST. PAUL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to call attention to correspondence I recently received from Todd Axtell, Chief of the St. Paul Police Department. Chief Axtell and the men and women in uniform of the department who serve my constituents are extraordinary public servants who operate with a level of professionalism that has been consistently demonstrated during the difficult circumstances of the past two years. Therefore, I include in the RECORD Chief Axtell's letter to highlight the increasing challenges being placed on St. Paul police officers.

At this moment, the City of St. Paul is the venue for the federal trial of three former Minneapolis police officers involved in the murder of Mr. George Floyd in May 2020. This trial has been brought by federal authorities, regarding federal civil rights charges, and concerns a crime that occurred in Minneapolis,

not in St. Paul. By selecting St. Paul as the venue for this federal trial, extraordinary security and financial burdens are being placed upon the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and our local taxpayers.

It is my belief that the federal court and Department of Justice must not be allowed to shift security related costs onto local government and taxpayers. This is simply unacceptable. Therefore, I am exploring funding options that will ensure the federal government covers all costs associated with security for this federal trial and the City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Police Department, and the property taxpayers of St. Paul are held financially harmless. Though I cannot guarantee funding, my office will make every effort to achieve this goal.

Madam Speaker, I remain committed to working with both local and federal counterparts to achieve a positive outcome for the people of St. Paul. I would also like to recognize Chief Axtell for his leadership and the day-to-day commitment of the St. Paul Police Department to meet the needs of our constituents.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,
CITY OF SAINT PAUL,
January 21, 2022.

Hon. BETTY MCCOLLUM,
House of Representatives, Saint Paul, MN.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCCOLLUM: The murder of Mr. George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers on May 25, 2020 sparked unprecedented civil unrest in the State of Minnesota and across the globe.

For several days, an outpouring of frustration sparked reactions ranging from massive demonstrations, to looting, to widespread destruction of property. In the Twin Cities, two people were killed and our community suffered millions of dollars in property damage, including 330 buildings in Saint Paul that were damaged or destroyed.

The past two years have brought dramatic changes in law enforcement staffing; police officers are leaving the profession in numbers that haven't been seen before. The Saint Paul Police Department is currently down 80 sworn officers, our lowest staffing level since the 1990's. Additionally, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic offers daily staffing challenges as members of our department contract the highly contagious virus and are required to quarantine.

While short-staffed, Saint Paul officers are being pushed to the brink while continuing to deliver the high level of service expected by our community. In 2021, Saint Paul experienced a record high number of homicides and saw dramatic increases in other violent crimes.

While struggling to meet the day-to-day challenges of maintaining public safety, our department was notified at the end of November 2021 that the federal civil rights trial for the four former Minneapolis police officers involved in George Floyd's murder would be held in downtown Saint Paul at the federal courthouse—even though the tragic incident occurred in a different jurisdiction.

As the murder of Mr. Floyd took place in the City of Minneapolis while in custody of Minneapolis police officers, no one anticipated the federal trial being held in Saint Paul.

Law enforcement organizations are typically given six to twelve months to plan for a trial of this magnitude. However, we were given fewer than two months to plan and prepare with our federal and local partners for the upcoming federal trial.

Tensions in the community remain high. Protests and calls for systemic changes continue. The upcoming federal trial has been highly publicized and may inflame intense emotions for individuals across the country.

While we have worked diligently to prepare, it will come at a steep price to our community, our financial bottom line and our officers' wellbeing.

Preliminary budget numbers show this trial could cost the City of Saint Paul \$2 million and up to an additional \$2 million in mutual aid costs for our East Metro partners. These estimates cover items such as training, equipment, protecting critical infrastructure and fencing, personnel costs, and other needs that arise as a result of the trial being held in our city.

With staffing levels critically low, personnel working during an ongoing pandemic, and officers working a great deal of overtime just to maintain minimum staffing levels, having this federal trial in our city is an extremely heavy lift for our department.

I respectfully seek assistance from the FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) funding bill to reimburse the City of Saint Paul. It is our hope that this will ease the financial strain that the upcoming federal trial will place on our department.

The Saint Paul Police Department's point of contact for additional information is Deputy Chief Stacy Murphy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TODD AXTELL,
Chief of Police.

ERIC FETROW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Eric Fetrow with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Eric started out in Cub Scout Pack when he was just 7 years old and then joined Boy Scout Troop 7 when he was 11 years old. For his Eagle Scout project, he made updates to the Gabriel Memorial Baseball Fields in Galloway, South Jersey, where he played baseball for 10 years. Eric replaced the sign at the field, as well as refurbished the flagpole. Currently, he attends Alderson Broaddus University, where he is majoring in business and earned a scholarship to play on the lacrosse team. Eric should be proud of his accomplishments and it was an honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. God Bless Eric and God Bless America.

BRYAN BRADFORD

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Bryan Bradford, Specialist, United States Army, of Grapevine, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Bradford enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and served until 1993 as a radio operator. Bradford was deployed to the Middle East in 1991 as part of Operation Desert

Storm during the Persian Gulf War. His decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of second award, the Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of a third award, the Good Conduct Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star denoting participation in two campaigns, and the National Defense Service Medal.

After leaving the Army, Mr. Bradford has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. Mr. Bradford has worked as a certified nutritionist, certified health coach and has been the Chief Nutrition Officer at Sunflower Shoppe for 27 years, which has been a service to the citizens of Colleyville and Fort Worth by providing the means to live healthier lifestyles.

Mr. Bradford's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CORPORAL YSABEL "MAC" ORTIZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Ysabel "Mac" Ortiz, who proudly served his country in the Korean War and was missing in action for 70 years.

Corporal Ortiz was born in 1931 and raised in El Monte, California. As a third generation El Montean, he attended El Monte High School before enlisting in the U.S. Army at the age of 17. In 1950, Corporal Ortiz was deployed to fight in the Korean War and was assigned to a M-19 anti-aircraft tank. His tank took a direct hit on December 2, 1950, and his remains were not found for 70 years. In January of 1954, Corporal Ortiz was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for making the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Although he was listed as missing in action, his family never gave up hope that he would someday return home and receive the hero's burial he so much deserved. In 2019, 55 caskets containing the remains of American soldiers were returned to the United States after a summit with North Korea, and DNA evidence provided by Corporal Ortiz's siblings was instrumental in identifying his remains. Over 70 years later, he finally made it home.

Corporal Ortiz is survived by his mother Concha Ortiz (now deceased), his father Ysabel M. Ortiz, Sr. (now deceased), his brothers Harold Ortiz (now deceased) and Jose Lucio Ortiz (now deceased), his sisters Esmeralda "Chata" Ortiz Ureno (now deceased) and Jennie Sanchez (now deceased), his step-brothers Rudy Ortiz (now deceased), Manuel Ortiz of El Monte, and Joe Ortiz of Bakersfield, and step-sisters Rose Soto of West Covina and Ana Sanchez of Murrieta.

Over the next 70 years, both Corporal Ortiz's family and community would work to recognize his sacrifice and to ensure that his memory lived on. Corporal Ortiz is recognized on a bronze plaque honoring our nation's war dead at the El Monte Historical Museum, and

his photo also hangs at the La Historia Museum/Museo de Los Barrios veterans' exhibit in El Monte. In 2022, a new 53-unit veterans housing project developed by the Cesar Chavez Foundation is scheduled to be opened in El Monte and will be named Plaza Ortiz in honor of Corporal Ortiz. The housing project will include a monument with a mural and a plaque to commemorate Corporal Ortiz's service to our nation.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of fallen Corporal Ysabel "Mac" Ortiz, and I would like to recognize the dedication and years of work shown by his family to finally have Corporal Ortiz laid to rest with full honors at Riverside National Cemetery in California. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corporal Ortiz's ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE KERN COUNTY
BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce on their 20th anniversary.

The Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce was founded in 2002 by Ali and Earlena Morris. The Chamber's work has provided opportunities for African American businesses to succeed. Their concentration of resources on critical areas of business has assured growth and sustainability for Kern County. In addition, the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce won the Chamber of the Year award in 2008.

The Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce is committed to helping low- and moderate-income communities build wealth through establishing connections for members and introducing them to information and resources. They also support African American students through their scholarship and youth programs which provide participants an opportunity to explore into the world of business at a young age.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce for their 20 years of service to the Central Valley.

RECOGNIZING ROSS MALONE, JR.
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Alabamian, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, Mr. Ross Malone, Jr.

Ross Malone Jr. was born February 10th, 1922, to Ross Malone Sr. and Corine Bibb Malone in Decatur, Alabama. When he was in Junior High, his parents relocated to Louisville, Kentucky for his fathers' job at L&N Railway. In 1941, Mr. Malone graduated from Central High School in Louisville, KY.

From 1943 to 1946, Mr. Malone honorably guarded depots and Prisoners of War (POW) during World War II, where his battalion was sent to Normandy one week after D-Day. On July 2, 2019, he was presented with a Quilt of Valor, a handmade quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who fought for our nation. After returning from war, he married his high school sweetheart, Ethelda Mason, on June 5th, 1946, and together they raised five children. Mr. Malone worked at the Decatur Southern Railway Depot. He and Ethelda were married for 64 years before the Lord called her home in May of 2011.

After working for the Decatur Southern Railway Depot for 35-years, Mr. Malone was given the distinguished honor of having the ticket office at the train depot named after him in 2016. He is currently the oldest living employee of the Depot today.

Since 1975, Mr. Malone has been a devoted member of Alpha Seventh Day Adventist Church where he remains active today. In 2012, he was featured on the cover of Radar, a premier business and entertainment magazine, spotlighting Mr. Malone as making a difference in his community and his country. Also in 2012, the Decatur Minority Development Association partnered with local businesses and corporations to host the first annual Ross Malone Charity Golf Tournament in his honor.

Madam Speaker, Ross Malone, Jr.'s military service, work ethic, and passion for serving others represents the best of America.

I wish Mr. Malone and his family the best as they celebrate his 100th birthday.

DORIS BARNES—MARINE CORPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, in November, I had the opportunity to attend a Veterans Day Event in Upper Township where Doris Barnes was the guest speaker. Doris, who recently turned 100 years old, served in the Marine Corps from 1944 to 1945. In the Marines, she was a Sergeant on aviation duty and was also a stenographer. At the time of her discharge, Doris received an Honorable Service Label Pin and an Honorable Discharge Pin. Currently, she resides in Ocean City, New Jersey and is a member of the Moray-Miley American Legion Post No. 524. In her free time, Doris enjoys the camaraderie of the American Legion and the daily flag raising ceremony on the boardwalk. I thank Doris for her many years of service to her community. God Bless Doris and God Bless America.

MICHAEL ESQUIVEL

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Michael Esquivel, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army, of Grapevine, for his honorable service

in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Esquivel was commissioned as an officer upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1988 and served as an infantry officer during Operation Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War. He later became a civil affairs officer, seeing combat with the 82nd Airborne Division and 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan. His decorations include the Bronze Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After retiring from the Army, Mr. Esquivel brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served as an instructor at Tarrant County Community College, helping launch its Logistics and Supply Chain Management Program, a founder of the Northwest Campus Community Market which helps distribute food across the community, a member of Team Rubicon, and volunteers with his wife with dog rescue groups such as the Society for Companion Animals and the DFW Pet Loss Support Group.

Mr. Esquivel's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Jewish Family Services (JFS) and join them in celebrating their 150th Anniversary. JFS is a nonprofit human services organization that draws upon traditional Jewish values to provide services to those in need—regardless of their faith, age, income, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Founded in 1872, JFS began as the Hebrew Benevolent Society to meet the needs of Denver's first 300 Jewish pioneers. From there, JFS has continued to grow and expand their mission—meeting the moment time and time again. They helped resettle Holocaust survivors in the wake of World War II, opened a group home for individuals with disabilities in the 1980s, formed an Employment Services Department in 2021, and continue to fight day after day to remove barriers to employment and help people find opportunities to work towards a livable wage.

In the face of an unprecedented pandemic and seemingly insurmountable difficulties, JFS continued to provide food security, children's services, mental health counseling, disability services, employment support, and housing stability. In the last year alone, JFS helped over 25,000 individuals with the aid of over 1,300 volunteers to stand strong against COVID-19 and address the needs of the community regardless of circumstance.

At the beginning of 2022, JFS became a temporary Afghan Refugee Resettlement Agency—providing comprehensive services to

refugees arriving from Afghanistan who are starting new lives in the Denver metro area. These services include cultural orientation, housing, employment, food, school enrollment, and referrals to language classes.

For 150 years our community has been made a better, more inclusive place to live because of the thousands of selfless JFS volunteers who have pulled upon their faith to serve our community and improve the lives of others. I congratulate and thank JFS for their service to our community and look forward to the incredible achievements the next 150 years will bring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call No. 16, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 3485, Global Respect Act; providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4445, Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act; and providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4521, Bioeconomy Research and Development Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

BRYANNA HEATHER STORCK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of presenting Bryanna Storck with her Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Bryanna made history in South Jersey, becoming the first female to earn the honor of Eagle Scout. When she was a 16-year-old girl scout, Bryanna went on a backpacking trip with her father. This is when she decided she wanted a more challenging program and decided to join Boy Scouts of America. In just 27 months, Bryanna earned 22 merit badges and completed the 325 requirements needed to earn the Eagle Scout honor. For her Eagle Scout project, she built a fire pit for events at Greentree Church in Egg Harbor Township, South Jersey. As the first woman in the region to earn this honor, Bryanna should be very proud of her accomplishments, and it was an honor to have had the opportunity to meet her and present her with this prestigious honor. God Bless Bryanna and God Bless America.

ALPHONSE FRANKLIN LE GRAND

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Alphonse Franklin Le Grand, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force, of Coppell, Texas, for

his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Le Grand was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1956, having served until 1978 as a navigator/bombardier for Strategic Air Command bombers. Le Grand was deployed to Vietnam during the war as the lead navigator for the AC-119 Stinger gunship, leading search and destroy operations on North Vietnamese positions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of subsequent awards, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Le Grand has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees, among these are as an officer for the Knights of Columbus, leadership positions within the Boy Scouts of America, and as a member of the Catholic Church Pastoral Council.

Mr. Le Grand's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4521, the so-called "America COMPETES Act of 2022." And I regret the path the Democratic leadership has taken with bringing this bill to the floor.

Some will call this a "competitiveness package" or a "supply chain" bill. Others claim the bill is about countering the Chinese Communist Party. But the truth is that it is none of those things. If this 3,000-page bill seems to have no coherence or strategic purpose, that's because it doesn't. This package was tossed together by Democratic leadership with no Republican input, and from what I understand with very little coordination between the Committee chairs. The Speaker hijacked good bipartisan bills dealing with U.S. competitiveness and countering the malign influence of China to pass another Democratic wish list that will go nowhere in the Senate.

By combining competitiveness bills with partisan poison pills, H.R. 4521 undoes more than a year of bipartisan work by the House Science Committee to develop and pass comprehensive legislation to double investment in basic research. As Ranking Member of the Science Committee, I was proud to work with Chairwoman JOHNSON to produce good policy that will double our investment in basic science, support the most important emerging technologies, build our technical workforce, and protect our research from theft. The House Science Committee passed more than a dozen bills to scale-up America's research and development capabilities over the next decade, ensuring the Chinese Communist

Party does not achieve its goal of overtaking the U.S. in science and technology, giving them a dangerous economic and national security advantage.

At the center of our work is the National Science for the Future Act and the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, which both passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in June. When we passed those bills, I had high hopes that for once, Congress might be able to work together to get something done. The economic and national security threats from China grow every day, and the Chinese Communist Party has been clear that their target is to surpass the United States.

The Senate has passed their own bipartisan package, the U.S. innovation and Competition Act (USICA) in June. While there are many flaws in USICA, I believe that we had a good opportunity to find a consensus agreement through a formal House and Senate Conference.

I have been urging Democratic leadership to begin conferencing these bills with the Senate since the summer, to no avail. And now that House Democratic leadership has finally decided to act, and they have done so with no regard for all this bipartisan work.

Instead of focusing on strong consensus policies, this package is filled with poison pills with no bipartisan support. There was no need to make this partisan.

I believe that if given the opportunity we could have passed legislation that invests in American research, strengthens our supply chains, spurs private sector investment, ensures the domestic production of semiconductor chips, and confronts China's malign behavior. This bill is nothing more than a distraction. Now I fear that this week's exercise will make it more difficult to reach a bicameral, bipartisan deal on a bill.

We cannot afford to play politics while the Chinese Communist Party threatens our economic and national security. I urge my colleagues to come back to the table to negotiate strategic, bipartisan legislation that addresses this generational threat. I ask my colleagues to oppose this flawed, partisan package.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act of 2022, which the House is considering. I have worked closely with several committees on key parts of this legislation—including the creation of a new class of start-up visas to attract the next generation of immigrant entrepreneurs and the reauthorization of the National Science Foundation to supercharge our country's investments in cutting-edge research. However, I have concerns with another part of this bill—the inclusion of the "SHOP SAFE Act" in Section 80301.

The laudable intent behind the SHOP SAFE Act is to help combat the on line sale of counterfeit goods, which I certainly share. However, the SHOP SAFE Act as presently constructed has three flaws.

First, SHOP SAFE could raise the administrative burdens and transaction costs of many small businesses and small sellers. This could be especially disruptive for the sale of used goods and other secondary markets, and for artisanal and other non-mass market products that do not fit neatly into the big-brand templates that this bill would likely impose. As a result, consumers could also suffer as costs go up and sellers could go down in many of these markets.

Second, only the largest online marketplaces with the deepest pockets may be able to bear the full technological and economic burdens that SHOP SAFE would impose. As a result, the bill risks entrenching their dominance at the expense of nascent and future competitors.

Third, SHOP SAFE takes a "kitchen-sink" approach to combat counterfeit listings, imposing over a dozen sweeping requirements that platforms must implement to avoid crippling liability for third-party infringement. Yet no one has been able to explain which of these steps, if any, will really make a difference over the status quo in stemming the flow of counterfeits. Indeed, some online marketplaces already police their listings in many different ways, without the legal pressure imposed by this bill.

These concerns came up during the Judiciary Committee's markup of the SHOP SAFE Act last fall. Members, including several who voted to advance the bill, called for further work on the bill. Based on public discussion at the markup, it was expected a committee-driven process to make changes to the SHOP SAFE Act would happen before it moved forward. Regrettably, given that the ordinary legislative process towards the floor did not occur, we now find SHOP SAFE has been inserted without improvements into this much larger legislation.

There is another approach included in the America COMPETES Act, in Section 20213, the INFORM Consumers Act. This legislation would boost enforcement efforts through regulation by requiring on line marketplaces to verify the identity of high-volume sellers, while requiring the disclosure of basic information about seller identity to consumers. Some of these requirements overlap with those imposed in the SHOP SAFE Act.

As such, the America COMPETES Act contains two visions of how to make sure on line marketplaces are safe. It is my hope that a targeted approach, like the INFORM Consumers Act, will help bring forth a sensible resolution to this issue as the America COMPETES Act moves to a conference committee.

AUBREY BRUCE STACY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas-24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Aubrey Bruce Stacy, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army, of Colleyville, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Stacy was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1966 and spent over 20 years as an infantry officer before retiring in 1989. During his time in service, he was deployed to Vietnam, where in 1967 his platoon was ambushed by the Viet Cong. Stacy successfully led his men in a charge on the enemy's well-fortified position, and in another firefight took point position to maneuver his platoon to safety out of the kill zone. In 1969, Stacy managed to move several of his wounded troops from the assault area while under attack from the Vietnamese despite being wounded himself. Stacy's actions during the war earned him the Silver Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster denoting a second award, the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster denoting a second award, the Bronze Star with V device denoting valorous actions, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Cluster denoting subsequent awards, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Mr. Stacy has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served as President of the Colleyville Rotary Club, the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth Air Power Council, and a permanent member of the 82nd Airborne Association.

Mr. Stacy's career is marked with heroism and consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOEY THORINGTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Fire Chief Joey Thorington of the Dearborn Fire Department. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Deputy Fire Chief Thorington is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's School of Fire, Staff and Command and the National Fire Academy and holds a bachelor's in Community Development focusing on Public Administration and a master's in Technology Studies, focusing on Public Safety and Emergency Management. A trusted member of the Dearborn Fire Department, he began his career as a firefighter protecting our natural wonders at the Manistee National Forest, and later worked in the White Cloud and Norton Shores fire departments. He began as a Firefighter I in Dearborn on April 28th, 1998. He rose to level of Firefighter II in December 2003. In 2006, he was promoted to Fire Engineer and after excelling in that role he was promoted to Fire Apparatus Supervisor Assistant in 2010 and then Lieutenant in 2012. On December 16, 2013, he became Deputy Fire Chief.

Deputy Fire Chief Thorington is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations for spectacular service to his community, including the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation, the Fire Chief Life Sav-

ing Award, the Gino Polidori Community Service Award, the Outstanding Officer Award, the Vaccination Center Award, and the Meritorious Service Award. He served as President of the Dearborn Firefighters Association IAFF Local 412 from 2011 to 2013. Hard working and one of the biggest University of Michigan fans, Deputy Fire Chief Thorington has left his mark on the Dearborn Fire Department by setting the example for public service among his peers. When he is not saving lives in Dearborn, he works as Organization Administrator at the Legacy Center in Brighton and has volunteered to coach youth softball and baseball. Deputy Fire Chief Thorington retired on April 29, 2022 after serving over two decades with the Dearborn Fire Department. He resides in Pinckney, Michigan with his family, including his wife Jean and children Allan and Cece.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deputy Fire Chief Joey Thorington for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Fire Department. I join with Deputy Fire Chief Thorington's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service in protecting our community and thank him for his role in serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past two decades.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ETHEL B. TOY GORDON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, Ethel B. Toy Gordon.

Ethel was born February 11, 1925, in Holmes County to Daniel and Leola Brown Toy. Ethel, at the age of 96, was called to her heavenly resting place on Wednesday, January 28, 2022, in her home of Greenwood, MS. At an early age she professed her faith in Jesus Christ. Ethel joined Meeks AME Church in Cruger, MS.

Ethel was influenced by her family to be a loving and caring woman. She always gave her time to others. Ethel married James Gordon in 1944, to that union 13 children were born. She later joined Gordon Chapel MB Church until moving to Greenwood, MS.

In 2018, Ethel joined Providence MB Church until she passed away. She believed in family, and she always shared her childhood stories. It was never a dull moment and always great laughs and good meals. Ethel wanted everyone to love each other because love was one of the many morals that were instilled in her.

Ethel was a God-fearing woman. One of her favorite sayings was "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I wouldn't be nothing nor would I have nothing." She was a blessed woman of God, who was full of life and joy. After the sudden passing of her husband, she was left with ten children to raise. By the Grace of God, they never needed nor wanted for anything. She was a woman to be admired and praised. Ethel B. received everything she deserved until her departure.

Ethel B. Toy Gordon was proceeded in death by her loving parents: Daniel and Leola Toy, her husband James Gordon, brothers

Louis Toy, Jonas Toy, three sisters Dorothy Toy, Mattie Toy Martin, Viola Toy Montgomery, two sons Arthur Gordon and Eddie Gordon, two daughters Charlene Cooper and Trufilia Hayes, one grandson Billy Gordon. Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her family and friends. On today she leaves loving memories to the 13 children, 8 daughters, 5 sons, 1 God son, 32 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, 8 great great grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mrs. Ethel B. Toy Gordon.

HAROLD CULVER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Harold Culver, Sergeant, United States Army, of Bedford, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Culver enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968, serving as a communications specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. On May 5, 1968, a Vietnamese 122mm rocket was launched at his position, wounding him. His decorations include the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Culver's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO- TECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLIT- ICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would require an act of Congress before the headquarters for any federal entity located in the National Capital Region (NCR) on today's date may be moved out of the NCR. This bill is cosponsored by Representatives ANTHONY BROWN, GWEN MOORE, JAMIE RASKIN and DAVID TRONE.

The Trump administration moved the headquarters of agencies out of the NCR to the detriment of employees, their families and the work of these agencies. Employees who work in agency headquarters fulfill the indispensable role of keeping Congress and the president informed of agency activities. Congress cannot do its work to write laws and engage in vital oversight without the unvarnished facts that federal agencies provide. Two years after

the Department of Agriculture (USDA) relocated the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to Kansas City, they are operating with roughly 30% fewer employees, with former USDA Director of Communications Matt Herrick admitting that these agencies had “lost some of the nation’s best economists and agricultural scientists.”

Furthermore, nearly 300 employees retired or quit after the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) moved its headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado. The Biden administration’s return of BLM headquarters to our nation’s capital is greatly appreciated and will go a long way to restore the valuable expertise that has been lost.

While I do not expect the Biden administration to move agencies out of the NCR, this bill would protect against irrational decisions of future presidents. Unless measures like this bill are taken to stop agencies from relocating, the federal government will lose more employees and agencies will be unable to perform critical tasks, including assisting Congress in vital oversight.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN BRENTS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Brents on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles Police Department. After thirty years of dedicated civic service to the people and communities of Los Angeles, Ms. Brents will be sorely missed.

Ms. Karen Brents’ extensive career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) began in 1989. Her excellence in the field and outstanding performance in emergency situations led to her receiving over thirty commendations within the Department and a promotion to Police Service Representative III (PSR III) in 1996. During her tenure, she was recognized by the District Attorney’s office for her exemplary courtroom behavior and communication skills.

Ms. Karen Brents was also deeply involved with training the next generation of 9–1–1 dispatchers and was a productive and reliable asset to the training cadre. Because of her deep engagement and dedication to the training program, Ms. Brents received multiple accolades and certificates for her hard work.

Ms. Karen Brents likewise received a dozen certificates and recognitions for her service and contribution to her community, including the 2006 certificate of achievement to the

Community Relations Unit, the 2000 National Dispatchers Week, and a 2006 certificate of achievement from the California Public Safety Radio Association (CAPRA).

For her remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Police Service Representative III Karen Brents. Her decades of civic service and commitment are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REP.
ESTEBAN TORRES

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Congressman Esteban Torres.

Congressman Torres was a Los Angeles icon, a beloved public servant who proudly represented East Angelinos here in the People’s House for nearly two decades. He was a trailblazer who paved the path for someone like me—the son of working class, Mexican immigrants—to stand here in this chamber today.

A Decorated Korean War veteran and labor organizer, he never stopped fighting to lift up the working class and advance immigrant rights. He stood for all that is good and just, and his legacy should be a model for all those who serve in this body.